Duvalier's Palace Bombed; Haiti's Dictator Unharmed

Spokesmen Point to Cuba as Plane's Origin

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — A four-engine Constellation aircraft, reportedly flown from Cuba, dropped incendiary bombs Wednesday over President Francois Duvalier's presidential palace.

At least one of six bombs landed in the palace courtyard, but caused little damage. Elsewhere one person was said to have been killed when a bomb landed on a hut about a half mile from the palace.

The plane, described as having black and red markings with no national insignia, was driven off by the Haitian defense force, authorities said.

TOLD BY PHONE

In Washington, a spokesman for the Haitian embassy said the intruding plane had taken off from Cuba. The spokesman said Haitian Foreign Minister Rene Chalmers reported this in a telephone conversation with Arthur Bonhomme, Haitian ambassador to the United States.

The State Department in Washington said it is "seeking clarification of the alleged Cuban origin of the attack."

The department also said Haiti has asked the United States to send warplanes to protect the country against bombing. A spokesman for the department said the request is under study, with no indication of a speedy response.

He said U.S. patrols in the area have been informed of the incident.

The population seemed to remain calm during the brief attack and later a crowd formed at Duvalier's palace in what was described as a show of support for him.

ALLUSION MADE

The attack came about 48 hours after the Central Committee of the Haitian Communist party was broken up.

The government announced after the attack that all was calm throughout this nation which shares a Caribbean island with the Dominican Republic.

A plane dropped several bombs on Port au Prince in May 1968 in what proved to be the prelude to an abortive invasion of Haiti. One bomb exploded near the palace and the others were duds.

Two days later the government said it had smashed a 35-man force that had been landed by plane near Cap Haitien.